Frequently Asked Questions – Preclinical Requirements

What are the preclinical requirements for placements?
Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Nursing, Bachelor of Midwifery, Bachelor of Social Work, Graduate Diploma of Child and Family Health and Diploma of Enrolled Nursing courses at Charles Darwin University (CDU) who are undertaking units which involve a clinical placement must meet all pre-clinical/pre-placement requirements set by the University. This ensures compliance with State/Territory legislation and Health Care Facility requirements. For more information on your state specific requirements please visit: Preclinical Requirements for Placements

I am an EN; do I still need to get all the preclinical documents?
Yes. All students need to meet pre-clinical requirements.

My placement is at the facility I already work for, why do I have to get all the pre-clinical documents?
While on placement, students are not employees of the facility – they are students of Charles Darwin University (CDU) and are indemnified by CDU. All students (regardless of where they are employed) must meet pre-clinical requirements.

Should I send original documents?
No. Students must not send original documents to the University. The University cannot accept original documentation. Students should keep all original documents in a safe place for future reference and a certified true copy set to be submitted to the University.

What is meant by "certified copies"?
A certified copy of a document is a copy that has been made and signed as a true copy of the original by an authorised person.

Who can certify my documents?
Students can get their documents certified by a Justice of the Peace, General Practitioner, Chemist, Registered Nurse, Police Officer, Lawyer or a Commissioner for Oaths. Local Students can bring their documents to the Pre-Clinical Coordinator, Placement Office, Academic Liaison Unit or Student Services to certify.

How can I submit my documents?
Students can submit certified true copies:

- via email (in pdf format)- preclinical@cdu.edu.au
- in person- to Blue 5, room no. 50
Can I check my preclinical status online?
Yes, students can check their own preclinical status through:

- Bachelor of Nursing: Preclinical Status in SPM
- Bachelor of Midwifery: Preclinical Status in SPM
- Diploma of Enrolled Nursing: Preclinical Status in SPM

In the ‘Preclinical’ tab click on the ‘Student Preclinical Status’ button at the bottom of the page.

I am a WA student, if I have a National Police Check why do I need to also get a Department of Health Criminal Clearance Card and a Working with Children Check?
It is a Western Australian Government legislative requirement that all students have a current National Police certificate, Working with Children Check AND Criminal Record Screening Card.

As I am a student do I get a discounted fee for my documents e.g. National Police Check, Working with Children card?
Some States or Territories offer a discounted fee for police certificates and working with children clearances with the specific clause that the certificate is required for volunteer purposes only.

How can I get the volunteer organisation section filled out in my police check/WWCC application to apply as a volunteer/student?
Students must send the completed application form including a self-addressed; reply paid envelope to the Preclinical Coordinator (to the following address) for signature which will be sent back to the student for submission.

- Preclinical Coordinator
- EHSE Faculty, Blue 5
- Charles Darwin University
- Darwin, NT 0909

If apply online, students must download the ‘Volunteer Organisation form’, fill out student details and send to the Preclinical Coordinator via preclinical@cdu.edu.au.

I am a SA student, do I have to apply for DCSI clearances for child related, aged care and vulnerable person related work?
Yes, DCSI clearance for child related, aged care and vulnerable person related work is a preclinical requirement for all SA students. Details to fill out section ‘D’ of the application can be obtained from the Preclinical Coordinator.

My police check is valid for 2 years, why do I need to get a new one each year?
It is a CDU requirement that students submit an annual National Police certificate.

I have applied for a National Police Certificate and/or Working with Children Clearance. However the processing time may take longer than I expected.
There could be extended delays in processing such clearances. Students can submit receipts to prove their application till the actual certificate/clearance is received.

My first aid certificate is current, why do I need to renew my CPR certificate?
While a First Aid certificate is current for three years, the CPR component of the certificate needs to be updated annually.

I have my basic life support certificate, is that adequate for first aid?
No. A Basic Life Support (BLS) certificate is not adequate as it does not incorporate all competencies included in the First Aid certificate. However, annual BLS assessment can be used to meet the annual CPR requirement.

I am pregnant and cannot complete the immunisation requirements, will my placement be cancelled?
No. Placements will not be cancelled due to pregnancy and being unable to complete immunisations. A ‘conscientious objection form’ needs to be completed and returned to the Pre-Clinical Coordinator. Health care facilities will be advised of Conscientious Objection and may withdraw the placement offer.

What happens if I can’t finish my Hep B course before placement?
As ample notice has been given to students to complete all immunisations, no student should present incomplete Hepatitis B vaccination requirements. In some states it is a mandatory requirement that Hepatitis B vaccinations and serology is completed PRIOR to ANY placement.

If this is the case the placement will have to be cancelled or postponed. In exceptional circumstances, if you cannot complete the Hepatitis B vaccination requirement prior to placement and it is not a mandatory state or territory requirement that the Hepatitis B course is completed, an exemption MAY BE sought to allow the placement to proceed.

Can I object health screening and/or vaccination?
Yes students can conscientiously object health screening and/or vaccination by submitting a ‘Conscientious Objection form’. However, refusal to undergo screening or immunisation may result in State health authorities and /or facilities not accepting students on placements if there is a risk that patient safety may be compromised.

I have a serology report indicating immunity to HEP B; however I don’t have evidence of past vaccination.
If students cannot access to their previous vaccination history they must provide serology results indicating immunity to HEP B (antibody level ≥ 10mIU/mL)

The recent serology results indicate that I am not immune to HEP B.
Students must consult a GP to commence the course of Hep B vaccinations (3 doses at 0,1,6 month intervals) and serology test to be done after 4-6 weeks from the last dose. Documented evidence of each vaccination has to be submitted to the Preclinical Coordinator if there is an upcoming SB or placement.

I was given a booster dose of MMR as the recent serology results indicated that I am not immune to Measles/Mumps/Rubella. Will that suffice the preclinical requirement?
No. Students must provide either evidence of two doses of MMR vaccine or serology results indicating immunity to MMR.

How can I get the TB screening done?
Students can do either Mantoux test (skin test) or Interferon-gamma release assays (blood test) based on the screening facilities available in their states.

NT – Students can contact TB/leprosy Units located in NT for a free TB screening (mantoux test). The Centre for Disease Control at Royal Darwin Hospital conducts TB clinics on Monday, Tuesday and Friday afternoons. If further testing or consultation
required for those who have positive Mantoux reading will be at a cost.

SA- Royal Adelaide Hospital uses an online TB screening questionnaire as the first TB screening method. If further testing is required students will be directed to the TB clinic for a mantoux test.

NSW – Students must fill out ‘Form 2 TB assessment Tool’ and submit along with the other preclinical documents. Further screening will not be required unless advised otherwise by NSW Health.

Why ‘the Fitness to Practice Declaration’ is required?
Charles Darwin University School of Health has a responsibility to the nursing and midwifery professions to ensure that all students who are required to undertake clinical placements have the physical, emotional and psychological capacity to perform their role as a nursing or midwifery student in the clinical environment. For this purpose students are required to be assessed by a general practitioner and complete an annual Fitness to Practice Declaration.

When do I have to submit Fitness to Practice Declaration?
It is an annual requirement and the university may request interim assessments if:

- Disability inhibiting a student’s ability to undertake clinical practice activities and assessments;
- Recent or chronic injury or injury rehabilitation;
- Stress, depression or anxiety or mental illness related problems;
- Post-operative recovery;
- Inability to meet hygiene (especially hand washing) and manual handling requirements;
- Latex or other environmental allergies;
- Neurological disorder;
- Learning disorders e.g. dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia;
- Pregnancy complications

Where can I find the Fitness to Practice Declaration?
For more information and to download the Fitness to Practice Declaration, please visit: Preclinical Requirements for Placements

How can I submit my Fitness to Practice Declaration?
The Fitness to Practice Declaration can be submitted along with the other preclinical documents:

- via email (in pdf format)- preclinical@cdu.edu.au
- in person- to Blue 5, room no. 50
- By Mail – Preclinical Coordinator EHSE Faculty Blue 5 Charles Darwin University Darwin NT 0909